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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bolivia

DATE DISTR. 19 JUL 60

SUBJECT Dissension Within the Bolivian Army

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. The morale of the Bolivian armed forces has recently dropped considerably because of ill will created by the present Chief of Staff, Colonel Ricardo Rios Rosel. His excessive political ambition has reportedly made enemies among the senior officers, while the junior officers have been antagonized by his excessive and unreasonable demands on them. The older and more experienced officers are reportedly turning to retired General David Toro for guidance.*
2. When news of the current dissension within the army reached the President, he allegedly decided to remove Rios as Chief of Staff and give the position to someone who has the respect of the army as a whole, possibly to Colonel Armando Ichazo, who is now Coordinator General for the Police and the Army.** Rios' removal is expected before 1 August 1950. Increased attempts by Toro to cause unrest in the army may lead to Toro's deportation to Chile.

[illegible]

*General Toro, one-time president of Bolivia, reportedly still controls a large portion of the army in spite of his unsavory career. He has made repeated attempts to regain power since his removal as president.

***It has been due to the undivided support of the army that the government has been able to put down two serious revolutionary movements within the past six months. Source was of the opinion that once revolutionary groups learned of the present dissension in the army another revolutionary move would be planned.

CLASSIFICATION

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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